

Introduction

To the Agriculture Science Student:

We are glad to have you in the Agriculture Science Program and we sincerely hope that you enjoy this course. This handbook will answer many questions that concern the coming year. There will be additions to this handbook during the year. We hope you will refer to this as the need may arise.

Parents:

We are well aware that many of you are not quite sure what to expect from the Agriculture Science Program. This booklet was prepared to answer as many questions as possible for the student and parent.

We feel that the Agriculture Science Program is probably one of the best programs offered today. We offer not only classroom work, but field work also. We teach leadership, cooperation, and responsibility. These are traits we want all our young people to acquire.

Therefore, we ask for your help and cooperation in the coming year. Let's all work together and learn together.

General Rules

1. Each student enrolled in Agriculture Science classes is expected to join the National FFA Organization (FFA). Dues of \$15.00 must be paid by September 29th. Those students who do not join FFA are not eligible to participate in any FFA activity, judging contest, leadership contest, agriculture mechanics contest, chapter votes, and/or any livestock shows.
2. All FFA meetings will be based upon democratic principles as outlined in "Parliamentary Guide for FFA", by Jarrell D. Gray, and the official FFA Manual.
3. Hauling of livestock shall be the responsibility of the student and parents.
4. Students may not enter the teachers' office if the instructors are out of the office. Students must knock and be recognized before entering the teachers' office.
5. Scheduling of most meetings and workdays will be determined at the beginning of each school year. Others may be added as the need arises.
6. A project record book must be maintained and kept up to date. Failure to do so will result in automatic **failure** and **dismissal** from the program. This is a state requirement.
7. Wearing hats is prohibited in the Ag. Buildings.
8. Gum chewing, food and drinks are **not** allowed in the classroom and/or shop area.
9. All shop safety procedures will be followed and enforced.

Livestock and Crop Projects

When selecting a project, it is critical that the student have the parents' advice and support. There are many things to consider:

1. Can the student and/or parent afford the project?
2. Where the project will be kept
3. Transportation to feed and care for the animal
4. Transportation for the animal when necessary
5. Time involved
6. Risk of losing money

You must keep in mind that these projects are a gamble and they can become a total loss. Animals can get loose and become lost or run over by a car, dogs can get to them and maim/kill them, or they can get sick and not recover. All this must be considered. The gamble can be reduced by hard work and desire to learn and apply your knowledge.

Project Requirements

1. The animal(s) purchased for student projects must be an animal designated for either breeding or slaughter purposes.
2. Family domestic animals do not meet required project criteria.
3. Projects involving crops that will be sold need to be approved by the agriculture teacher.
4. The types of projects are as follows:

Cattle	Ag. Mechanics	Sheep
Swine	Goats	Horses
Garden crops	Green house plants, etc.	

THIS SUPERVISED PROJECT CAN BE A DREADFUL PROBLEM OR THE GREATEST LEARNING EXPERIENCE. IT IS ONLY WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

Purchase of Projects

1. The selection and purchase of an agriculture science project is a cooperative effort involving the student, parent, and teacher. The agriculture science teacher's role is advisory only. The teacher will not dictate what to buy, how much to spend, or from whom the purchase is to be made.
2. The purchase of projects for agriculture science should be coordinated with the agriculture science teacher before projects are selected and purchased.
3. The student and parent are responsible for the purchase of any and all agriculture science projects. See Ag. Teachers Responsibilities section (c).
4. Projects purchased for the purpose of showing must meet the requirements of the show(s) intended. The agriculture science teacher will assist in providing the student and parent the necessary information regarding the care and grooming of the projects for each show.
5. All projects must be owned by the student. All projects must be entered in a student record book in order for the project to be eligible for a show.
6. The student is responsible for validations and entries at all shows.
7. The parents and students will make arrangements for transportation when selecting projects.

Estimated Animal Project Expenses

Animal Time Required	Average Cost	Initial Cost	Feed Expenses	Misc. Est. Cost	Total
Steer	10-11months	\$1500-3000	\$1000-2500	\$150-300	\$3000-6000
Swine	3-5 months	\$200-400	\$200-300	\$50-150	\$400-1000
Lambs/Goats	4-10 months	\$200-500	\$300-500	\$50-150	\$600-1200

Project Supervision

1. The student is responsible for:
 - a. the daily care of his/her project
 - b. informing the agriculture science teacher regarding any problems and/or progress of his/her project.

2. The parent is responsible for:
 - a. the general supervision of the project on a day-to-day basis.
 - b. communication with the agriculture science teacher should a question or problem arise concerning the project or the student's performance of his/her responsibilities.

3. Agriculture Science Teacher responsibilities:
 - a. Any problems that occur with livestock or poultry projects should be handled during the normal working hours when possible. The agriculture science teacher is not required to make emergency calls for the purpose of treating sick or injured animals during the evening hours. However, the agriculture science teacher may assist with such problems at his/her discretion.
 - b. The agriculture science teacher will visit each supervised experience program as required by Texas Education Agency rules.
 - c. All projects purchased by the agriculture science teacher to be used for the project program and bought for a specific student, must have signed an approval form stating that the agriculture science instructor will act as the student's purchasing agent.
 - d. Participation in livestock shows is not a requirement for the agriculture science program; therefore, student participation at such activities is the responsibility of the parents. Supervision of the students at out-of-district shows by school personnel may be provided. The number of agriculture science teachers assigned supervision responsibilities at out-of-district shows will be determined by the school principal based on need.

Use of Drug Procuring and Medication

The agriculture teacher or the Ingram Independent School District will not be held liable for injury to livestock or poultry while assisting the student with their project. This includes such things as giving medication, castration, dehorning, docking, worming, trimming, and any other activity directly involving the agriculture science teacher with student's animals.

Project Location

Because the student and his/her parents are responsible for the daily care and supervision of the student's project, projects must be located in an area that is both convenient to the student and conducive to the care and well-being of the project. Poor selection of a location will handicap the student in his/her efforts to fulfill his/her responsibilities.

Livestock Show Participation

1. Each student may choose to show or not to show his/her project. This is not an agriculture science course requirement.
2. To show a project, a student must be a member of the FFA Chapter and enrolled in an agriculture science class.
3. In order to participate in a livestock show, students must be passing all courses as determined by TEA rules.
4. Students whose projects are not ready or are not of sufficient quality to participate in a major show will not be allowed to show. This decision will be made by the agriculture science teacher.
5. The agriculture science teacher will prepare an approved list of eligible students authorized to attend all livestock shows.
6. Parent permission forms for out-of-district shows must be signed by parents and returned to the agriculture teacher before the student leaves for these shows.
7. The parents and student will make arrangements with the agriculture teacher for supervision, travel, housing, and transportation of animals to the major shows in which students enter as a team. See (d) Teacher's Responsibilities.
8. Students and parents will be responsible for travel to and from livestock shows and for transporting their animals to and from these shows.
9. **All** school policies will be enforced and discipline will be according to school policies.
10. Students who are released from school to go to stock shows as a FFA member, whether supervised or not, must follow school rules or forfeit the right to participate in future shows.

Awards and Scholarships

Students are encouraged to apply for the various scholarships and awards. The Star and Proficiency awards are presented at the FFA banquet that is held in May. (See Star and Proficiency Awards Application) **Students must fill out an application to receive an award or scholarship.**

Code of Ethics

Agriculture science students will honor the FFA Code of Ethics. They will conduct themselves at all times in a manner befitting their organization, chapter, school, and community by:

1. Dressing neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
2. Showing respect for the rights of others and being courteous.
3. Being honest and not taking unfair advantage of others.
4. Respect property of others.
5. Refraining from loud, boisterous talk, swearing, and other unbecoming conduct.
6. Demonstrating sportsmanship in the show ring, judging contests, and meetings.
7. Attending meetings promptly and respecting the opinion of others in discussions.
8. Taking pride in their organization, activities, supervised experience programs, exhibits, and in the occupations of agriculture.
9. Sharing with others experiences and knowledge gained by attending National and State meetings.

Agriculture Mechanics and Horticulture Rules

1. All students will participate in shop or lab activities.
2. Students must furnish shop or work clothes. Protective clothing must be worn or the student cannot participate. Coveralls are recommended. Proper footwear is a must.
3. **No** horse playing whatsoever will be tolerated. Severe disciplinary action will be forth coming when this rule is broken.
4. **PROTECTIVE EYE GLASSES** will be worn at all times in the shop area.
5. Students will not be allowed into the shop other than during their class period without permission from their Ag. Teacher.
6. **Safety will be observed at all times.**
7. Students are responsible for cleaning, putting equipment away properly, and restoring the work area that has been used by the student. Students will also be assigned areas that they will be responsible for keeping clean.
8. Students are provided a locker for clothing and proper foot wear.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE RULES WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT BEING SENT TO THE OFFICE AND/OR GIVEN A DAILY GRADE OF "ZERO".

Guidelines for the Ingram I.S.D. Agriculture Center

1. All policies of the Ingram Independent School District Agriculture Center governing students conduct apply at all times (24-hours a day) to all students. Violation forms will be issued for students failing to comply with project center rules. Three or more rule violations will result in removal of the project(s) from the center.
2. Students and parents must arrange transportation to and from the Project Center.
3. The primary responsibility for discipline and supervision rest with the student and his/her parents when instructors are not present after school hours.
4. Students will be held financially accountable for willful vandalism on the part of the student who commits the act.
5. Alcohol beverages and tobacco use are prohibited on the premises. Use of, possession of, or distribution/purchasing of illegal or alcoholic substances, **by students or parents/guardians**, will result in immediate removal of student and animal project from the project center.
6. Each student is responsible for keeping his/her pen and the surrounding area clean. **No** water leaks or excessive manure piles will be permitted.
7. Each student is responsible for feeding and general care for his/her project. Students **MUST NOT** feed animals that do not belong to them unless prior arrangements have been made with the owner or an Ag. Teacher.
8. Each student who uses the Project Center is expected to attend all workdays at the center. Failure to do so will result in a project center violation.
9. A student should not be in another student's pen unless permission is given by the agriculture teacher, responsible parent, or the student whose project is to be looked after.
10. **NO FIREARMS.**
11. No pets, dogs, etc.
12. A non-refundable fee will be required to use the Project Center. (See Agriculture Project Center Form)
13. Projects are considered completed within seven (7) days of the student's last show and must be removed from the project center.
14. If it becomes necessary to remove a student's animal, the owner will have three (3) days to remove the animal. If the animal is not removed at this time, it will be picked up by an authorized livestock hauler and shipped to a livestock auction barn at the owner's expense. The remainder of the money from the sale of the animal will be sent to the owner.
15. Only students currently enrolled in an Agriculture Science course in Ingram I.S.D. and an FFA member are eligible to utilize the Agriculture Project Center. Students not enrolled in agriculture, or students who do not have their animal located in the Project Center, should not loiter in the center. Visitors should check in with an agriculture teacher.
16. All projects housed at the Project Center are to be exhibited under the FFA.
17. Animal pens must be cleaned within seven (7) days after the project is completed. All students using the Project Center must attend the final workday. Pens must be cleaned by designated dates set by the agriculture teachers.
18. **No mechanical, wooden, electrical, or metal structures may be placed in pens without agriculture teacher's approval.** All items placed in feeding pens must have prior approval.
19. Students who fail to abide by the above rules, or failure to keep their pens clean, **may be fined \$50.00 and could lose their opportunity to use the Project Center in the future.**
20. Loitering outside of the Project Center before and after school hours will not be tolerated. **THIS IS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE STUDENT AND ANIMAL PROJECTS.** Students who are present at the Project Center must be working with their animal or cleaning the center. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a project center violation.
21. **THEFT** in the Project Center will not be tolerated. Stealing from the Project Center or from another student will result in immediate removal of student and animal from the Project Center.
22. Students/parents must observe opening and closing times. Students and/or parents entering the center before/after hours will be issued a project center violation. Students **will not** be allowed to go to the Project Center during school hours!

Project Center Hours 6:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Veterinarian & Feed Store Information

At times, it becomes necessary for a student to contact a veterinarian for animal health purposes. Neither Ingram H.S. Ag. Science teachers, or Ingram I.S.D., advertise, promote, or recommend any of the following individuals or businesses. This information is being provided as a convenience and should be used at your discretion.

VETERINARIANS

Bandera Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Richardson
1989 HWY 16N
Bandera
830-796-3003

Kerrville Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Bob Dittmar
109 Methodist Encampment
Kerrville
830-895-5533

Dr. Eckhardt
Hwy 16 North
Fredericksburg
830-997-4308

Dr. Fritz
402 S. Creek
Fredericksburg
830-997-4348

Ingram Veterinary Clinic
123 Hwy 39
Ingram
367-2230

Town & Country Animal Hospital
2710 Junction Hwy
Ingram
367-5316

Dr. Stephen Sells
Bandera
796-5701 (mobile)
796-4950 (home)

Leifeste Animal Hospital
1294 Bandera Hwy.
Kerrville
896-4600

FEED STORES

Double L Feeds
Kerrville 896-7722

Double L Feeds
Ingram 367-4100

Kerrville Pet & Ranch 895-5800

The agriculture teachers, or Ingram ISD, will not be held liable for injury to livestock or poultry while assisting the student with their project. This includes such things as giving medication, castration, dehorning, docking, worming, trimming, transportation, and any other activity directly involving the agriculture science teachers with student's animals.